

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method in a secure gateway for sharing a multiple gateway automated data storage system containing a first data storage unit with data stored within the first data storage unit, comprising the steps of:

transmitting the data from the first data storage unit within a first automated data storage system to a second data storage unit within the first automated data storage system, wherein the first automated data storage system comprises a robotic mechanism for transporting data storage units;

receiving a request from a second automated data storage system for the second data storage unit, wherein the second automated data storage system comprises a second robotic mechanism for transporting data storage units contained in the second automated data storage system; and

transporting the second data storage unit to the second automated data storage system without human handling of the second data storage unit, wherein the first automated data storage system is an unclassified data storage system and wherein the second automated data storage system is a classified data storage system that complies with a government security classification where the data storage units contained in the second automated data storage system are not allowed to be transported to the first automated data storage system.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
generating an identification qualifier for the second data storage unit.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first automated data storage system is a source automated data storage system coupled to a first server via a source data path and a source control path, wherein the second automated data storage system is a destination automated data storage system coupled to a second server via a destination data path and a destination control path, wherein the source data path is distinct from the destination data path and the source control path is distinct from the destination data control path, and wherein the source automated data storage system and the destination automated data storage system are each physically connected to a pass-through port.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the source automated data storage system comprises a source control data set managed by the first server, and the destination automated data storage system comprises a destination control data set distinct from the source control data set and managed by the second server.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
responsive to the transporting step, updating the source control data set by the first server.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the source control data set is integrated into the first server.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the source control data set is external to the first server.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein updating the source control data set comprises:

decataloging the second data storage unit from the first automated data storage system;

and

notifying the first server that the second data storage unit has been removed from the first automated data storage system.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising updating the destination control data set, wherein updating the destination control data set comprises:

cataloging the second data storage unit into the second automated data storage system;

and

notifying the second server that the second data storage unit has been received at the second automated data storage system.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transporting the second data storage unit to the second data storage system comprises:

controlling movement of the robotic mechanism to transport the second data storage unit to a pass-thru port that interconnects the first automated data storage system with the second automated data storage system.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein transporting the second data storage unit to the second data storage system further comprises controlling movement of the second robotic mechanism to transport the second data storage unit from the pass-thru port to the second automated data storage system.

14. (Currently amended) A system in a secure gateway for sharing a multiple gateway automated data storage system containing a first data storage unit with data stored within the first data storage unit, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting the data from the first data storage unit within a first automated data storage system to a second data storage unit within the first automated data storage system, wherein the first automated data storage system comprises a robotic mechanism for transporting data storage units;

receiving means for receiving a request from a second automated data storage system for the second data storage unit, wherein the second automated data storage system comprises a second robotic mechanism for transporting data storage units contained in the second automated data storage system; and

transporting means for transporting the second data storage unit to the second automated data storage system without human handling of the second data storage unit, wherein the first automated data storage system is an unclassified data storage system and wherein the second automated data storage system is a classified data storage system that complies with a government security classification where the data storage units contained in the second automated data storage system are prevented from being transported to the first automated data storage system by a pass-thru port that interconnects the first automated data storage system with the second automated data storage system.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, further comprising:
generating means for generating an identification qualifier for the second data storage unit.
16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the first automated data storage system is a source automated data storage system coupled to a first server via a source data path and a source control path, wherein the second automated data storage system is a destination automated data storage system coupled to a second server via a destination data path and a destination control path, wherein the source data path is distinct from the destination data path and the source control path is distinct from the destination data control path, and wherein the source automated data storage system and the destination automated data storage system are each physically connected to a pass-through port.
17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the source automated data storage system comprises a source control data set managed by the first server, and the destination automated data storage system comprises a destination control data set distinct from the source control data set and managed by the second server.
- 18-19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising:
updating means, responsive to the transporting means, for updating the source control data set by the first server.
21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the source control data set is integrated into the first server.
22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the source control data set is external to the first server.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the updating means for updating the source control data set comprises:

decataloging means for decataloging the second data storage unit from the first automated data storage system; and

notifying means for notifying the first server that the second data storage unit has been removed from the first automated data storage system.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, further comprising second updating means for updating the destination control data set, wherein the second updating means for updating the destination control data set comprises:

cataloging means for cataloging the second data storage unit into the second automated data storage system; and

notifying means for notifying the second server that the second data storage unit has been received at the second automated data storage system.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the transporting means for transporting the second data storage unit to the second data storage system comprises:

controlling means for controlling movement of the robotic mechanism to transport the second data storage unit to the pass-thru port that interconnects the first automated data storage system with the second automated data storage system.

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the means for transporting the second data storage unit to the second data storage system further comprises second controlling means for controlling movement of the second robotic mechanism to transport the second data storage unit from the pass-thru port to the second automated data storage system.

27. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for sharing a multiple gateway automated data storage system containing a first data storage unit with data stored within the first data storage unit, comprising:

first instructions for transmitting the data from the first data storage unit within a first automated data storage system to a second data storage unit within the first automated data

storage system, wherein the first automated data storage system comprises a robotic mechanism for transporting data storage units;

second instructions for receiving a request from a second automated data storage system for the second data storage unit, wherein the second automated data storage system comprises a second robotic mechanism for transporting data storage units contained in the second automated data storage system; and

third instructions for transporting the second data storage unit to the second automated data storage system, wherein the first automated data storage system is an unclassified data storage system and wherein the second automated data storage system is a classified data storage system that complies with a government security classification where the data storage units contained in the second automated data storage system are not allowed to be transported to the first automated data storage system.

28. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 27, further comprising:
fourth instructions for generating an identification qualifier for the second data storage unit.

29. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 27, further comprising:
fifth instructions for updating a first control data set managed by a first server coupled to the first automated data storage system and updating a second control data set managed by a second server coupled to the second automated data storage system.

30. (Original) A secure gateway apparatus for sharing a multiple gateway automated data storage system, the apparatus comprising:

a controller that controls transporting a data storage unit from a first data storage device to a second data storage device; and

a transportation device that transports the data storage unit from the first data storage device to the second data storage device, wherein the transportation device protects against transporting the data storage unit from the second data storage device back to the first data storage device.

31. (New) The secure gateway apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the transport device comprises a pass-thru port that interconnects the first automated data storage system with the second automated data storage system.